

CANADA:

ITS COMMERCE, ITS COLLEGES, AND
ITS CHURCHES.

BY

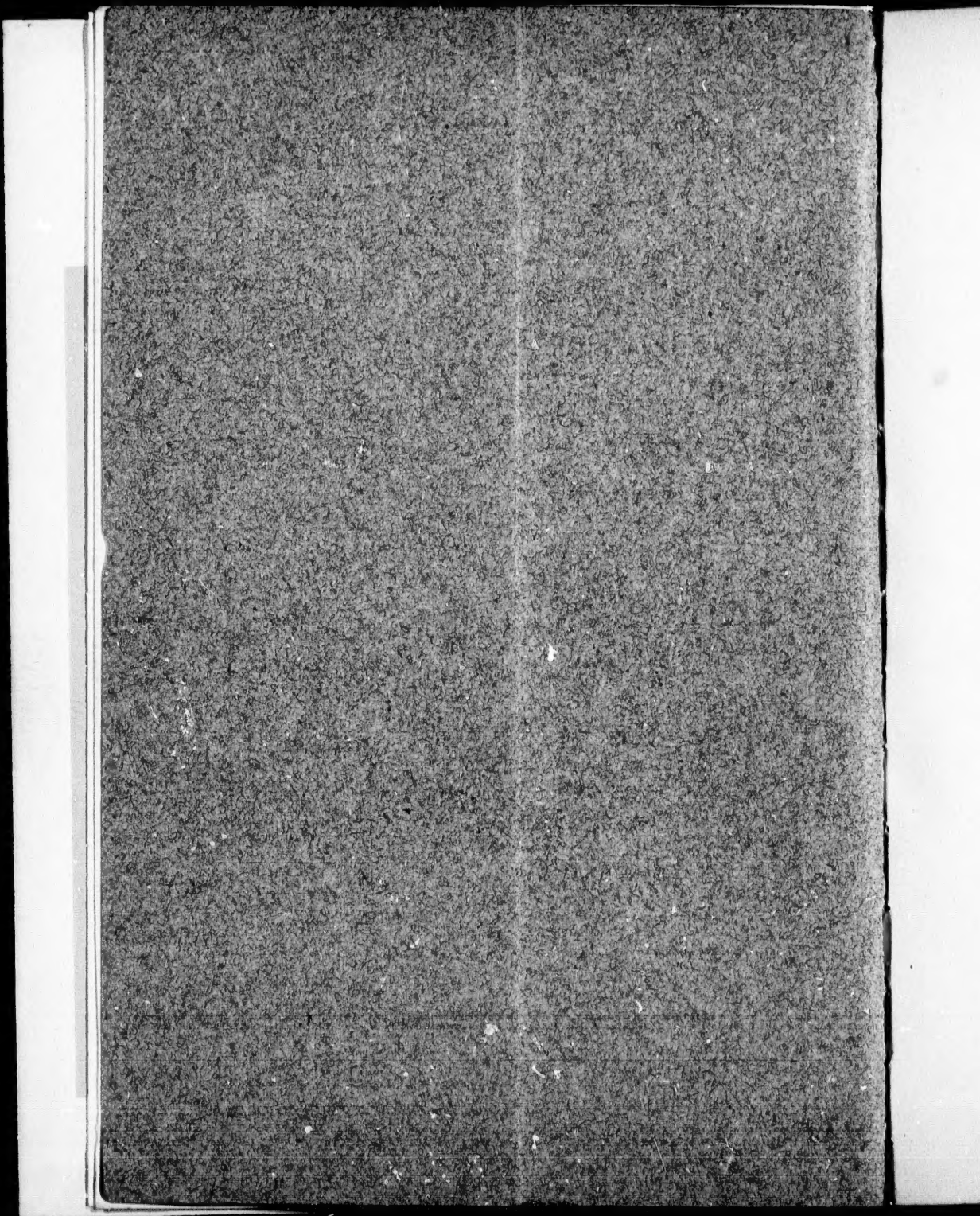
JAMES LINDSAY,

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late Hugh Waddell Lecturer on Church History
in Queen's University, Canada; late Examiner in
Philosophy and Theology to the Associated Theo-
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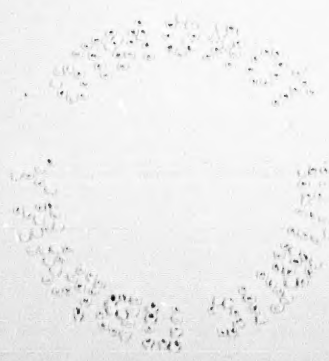
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ON this side of the Atlantic, there still remains so much crass ignorance of "The Great Dominion," even in educated circles, that no one who has visited Canada in any of its interesting and important parts need proffer apology for trying to make its virtues better known. It seems to me strange that a really intelligent comprehension of what the British Empire means, in all its home and colonial relations, should still be so rare. It seems surprising that there should not be more adequate appreciation of the worthy, self-restrained, and dignified part played by Canada in great international interests and issues, a part entirely worthy of Britain's eldest daughter. The occasion of my visiting Canada was my being called to fulfil the duties of Hugh Waddell Lecturer in Church History in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario province. When that call came, I had not a moment's hesitation in deciding to make myself of what service I could to the men preparing at that seat of learning for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. So soon as my presbytery and church could arrange to release

me for the necessary months I was ready to start,

Cras ingens iterabimus æquor.

I sailed, in the early part of February, from Liverpool by the ss. Dominion, of the Dominion line of steamers, and found her a remarkably steady boat. The passage was so rough that at times one began to recall the lines learnt in school days :—

*Una Eurusque Notusque ruunt, creberque procellis
Africus, &c.*

After six days the weather brightened a little, and then a dense blinding fog came on for two or three days ere we reached Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was three o'clock in the morning when we arrived there. I got out of bed to say good-bye to my fellow-passengers, who almost all disembarked here. With a peculiar sensation I looked out on Canada for the first time on that cold and snowy morning. There she was, the "Lady of the Snows," clad in that white and stainless garment which she had put on just in time for our arrival, and which she kept on nearly all the time of my stay. Kipling's lines, which I had thought beautiful, I found it prudent to forget in Canada, the good people there rather resenting his converting some exceptional snowstorms into something most characteristic of the country. On my way home from Canada, however, we had a lovely evening for our entry into the magnificent harbour of Halifax, which is at all seasons accessible.

Halifax is a populous and strongly fortified

city, and has a permanent garrison. Its commercial interests are large, and its exports include fish, lumber, and coals. The weather proved no better on our way from Halifax to Portland until we came near the excellent harbour of Portland, Maine. The evening was bright and clear, with pink hues in the sky, as, with much interest and wonderment, I first gazed on the States. I had arranged with friends at home that I should send a cablegram from Portland on my arrival there, the single word "good," "better," or "best," as I might happen to be after the voyage. So I wired the word "best," as I was feeling very "fit." The magic word brought comfort to hearts at home by breakfast time next morning. From Portland I went on to Kingston, some five hundred miles, without break. To that I shall return. I was glad to think of myself as in Canada and still a subject of the Queen. One may forget his loyalty at home, but never in Canada. The thing is there impossible; the people will not let you. Speaking of this one day to Mr. Justice Sedgewick, of Ottawa, he said in reply to my remarks, "Loyalty is a passion with us here." To which I said, "Yes, Mr. Justice, and a worthy and beautiful passion too." His remark exactly hits the truth. Everywhere in Canada the Queen is the symbol, expressive and fit, of the unity of the Empire. Her rare sympathies, radiant purity of character, and superb moral influence, have drawn to her throne the touching and beautiful attachment of every part

of one vast and mighty empire. In Canada, as elsewhere in our great Colonial Empire, our brethren are saying to us, as we to them,

Pray God our greatness may not fail
Through craven fears of being great.

Canada is a country of well over 5,000,000 souls. Its trade — taking import and export jointly — runs up to considerably beyond 60,000,000*l.* sterling per annum. Its annual export of agricultural produce alone exceeds 15,000,000*l.* sterling. The timber and forest products yearly shipped amount to considerably over 5,000,000*l.* sterling. The total revenue is over 8,000,000*l.* sterling a year, which is apart from provincial or local revenues. The facilities for commerce are at least equal to what may be found in any other part of the world. It needs no prophetic insight to see that another half century of developments, at the rate of those of the last quarter of a century, will mean prodigious advances in Canadian civilization, culture, and progress. Canada has faith in herself—as why should she not?—and she will go forward. “*Impavidi progrediamur*” will be the watchword of her sons. She has had her own lines of development, and has given surprises to the home-land in matters like her dairy produce and her military contingents. She will have her own theological developments too, and she already has surprises for the home-land in her academic and ecclesiastical movements.

There seems to me no more absurd or “wooden” course open to Scot or Englander

than to go out to a country like Canada and simply inquire how far things correspond at every turn to stereotyped patterns at home. The conditions are different, and the rational thing is to find out whether the adaptations are good and the developments for the time involved praiseworthy. Tried by such a standard, the adaptations appeared to me admirable, and the developments amazing. Not so very different really from our own are the methods of living. I thought that speech and social modes tended more to an English than a Scotch type ; but I found practically nothing in the academic, ecclesiastical, and social life into which I could not heartily enter. Intercourse is more frank and unrestrained than in our somewhat over-weighted conventionalism at home. There is greater scope in life generally for the free play of personality. And personality seems always more the greatest thing in the world. This freedom may sometimes run into an undue self-assertiveness, but such a case is rare and nowise typical. If one was ever tempted to miss some form or another of delicate old-world courtesy, one instantly recalled how easily such things can be missed at home. Besides, there was here such overflowing kindness as made one think that at home we do not so well understand the science of human kindness, nor the art of really caring for our friends. Life in Canada is not less noble than it is free. I saw and met as much of refinement, grace, and genuine culture, as one would in like circumstances meet at home.

What struck me was the absence of any taint of vulgarity amid the freer initiative and the greater self-reliance found in men and women alike. With its resources so ample and vast, and its population so relatively small, Canada has a large door of opportunity, and allows of great inventiveness in methods of work. This freedom from the rigid immobility of things at home is not without great advantage, and is turned to excellent account by wise and level-headed men there.

One is not surprised to find education, prosperity, and comfort so widely diffused in Canada, for the ideal of that country lies neither in the tramp nor the millionaire. Education is under charge of the provincial governments. School buildings are commodious and good. I did not find that education is valued for its commercial worth, or as contributive to colonial expansion and material progress, any more than people value it for such reasons at home. There, quite as much as at home, one finds some sense of the power of education to brighten and beautify life by throwing open the joyous fountains of thought and literature. Too many of the teachers in Canada make the profession merely a stepping-stone to something else—law, medicine, or divinity. It need hardly be added that too many of the lady teachers leave the profession to get married, for the general happiness of the race is more than the interests of a profession. I often heard it said that too many subjects are taught the children, so begetting a tendency to superficiality.

Of universities, theological and higher colleges, Canada has a plentiful supply; of these I was able to visit only a few, but chose the most important. Of them I shall speak in due course. Among religious denominations, Presbyterians, Methodists, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics are the strongest bodies. The Baptists also form a body of considerable strength. The Anglicans and the Presbyterians have of late years been very active in providing places of worship for the people. So, too, have the other bodies named. What I saw of religious life in Canada related mainly to Presbyterianism. Presbyterianism strikes one as a living force there, and the home of much genuine spiritual religion. Differences of sect are not so sharply accentuated as with us, which is rather a gain. I found the Presbyterian Church engaged in the laudable task of raising the Twentieth Century Fund, that is, raising one million dollars during this year in celebration of the new century. This sum is to be devoted to the greater efficiency of the Church and the further equipment of her theological colleges. From the admirable response being made by clergy and laity, I doubt not the desired fund will speedily become a realized fact. The Presbyterian Church of Canada has great possibilities before her, if she will only have faith in her own future and go forward in thought and work alike. In the Quebec province Roman Catholicism is, of course, very strong, and clericalism rampant, which is hardly inspiring. But time is on the

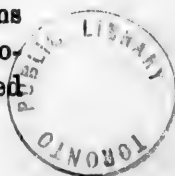
side of the forces which there make for freedom and progress.

One should speak rather of climates than of the climate of Canada, for the country is so impressively vast that the climatic conditions necessarily vary considerably in different portions of the Dominion. I could not fail to be struck with the electrical dryness of the atmosphere, so contrastive with the penetrating humidity of our British Islands. No wonder that Canadian friends dislike the damp of our ungenial clime. It was easy to imagine how lovely Canadian summers must be; but even amid winter colds the air was stimulating and exhilarating to a degree. When I walked a mile I wanted to walk two, when I walked two I wanted to walk three, before I had walked three I wanted to work. A climate that influences one in such a fashion has some title to gratitude.

It snowed incessantly for some days after I got to Kingston; in fact, I arrived there just in time to see one of the greatest snowstorms for years, according to the testimony of everybody. The ice on the immense lake was sixteen inches thick, and ice-boating, hockey, sleighing, and curling were all in full swing. I rested one day, and then gave my opening lecture at Queen's University. The reception accorded was most gratifying. The Principal, the Very Rev. G. M. Grant, D.D., LL.D., who presided, greatly encouraged me at the close. I had the Divinity men of all three years, and fine fellows

they were every way. Each day for three weeks I lectured to them on Church history, and on certain days gave a second lecture in theology. The success of the course was, no doubt, largely due to their being delivered entirely without note or manuscript. It was indeed a pleasing experience to have each day's lecture close in so cordial a round of applause, and to have the course terminate in an ovation such as will make the men of Queen's always dear to the recollections of the lecturer. So well did the men apply themselves to the work that in two written examinations which I held one or two men in each of the three years reached 90 or more per cent., while not a paper in all the sets came below 65 per cent.

But I could not help taking some interest in the life of the University as a whole. And the result of that interest was that I came to the rather astonishing conclusion that in no other university with which I have any sort of acquaintance is the university ideal so well realized as I found it at Queen's. The causes for this may be various, but I could not escape the conviction that a large part of the credit for this most desirable state of things was due to its admirable head in Principal Grant. Principal Grant is more than scholar and better than teacher ; he is also a man of great administrative capacity, singular energy, sound judgment, and forceful character. We had many conversations on matters academic, ecclesiastical, and theological, and increased intercourse only deepened



my regard for his fine Christian personality. At Queen's the university ideal is not merely preached to the men as an ideal abstract and lifeless, but is personalized in the men who are chief factors in the life of the university—personalized most of all in the principal. No praise is too great for the services Principal Grant has rendered Queen's during the last quarter of the century; he, more than all else, has raised her to the proud position she now occupies in the intellectual life of Canada. He has had the splendid loyalty of his able colleagues on the professorial staff, which is large and complete; and it was a beautiful thing to observe how everybody in Queen's, students and professors alike, seemed to catch up the spirit of living in and for the University. Queen's loyalty is quite a noted thing in Canada, and such a spirit is a thing too fine and rare to pass without notice.

Dr. Mowat holds the Chair of Hebrew, and Dr. Ross that of New Testament Exegesis and Apologetics, both of whom I met. The Principal is Primarius Professor of Divinity. The latest addition to the theological staff is Dr. Jordan, of the Chair of Old Testament Exegesis, a promising young professor and a lovable man besides. I like theology in the university, as here, where it becomes no cloistered pursuit, but has its place in living relation to all other sciences. The Arts professors were also very kind to me. It was a pleasure to meet men like Prof. Cappon, the very capable Pro-

fessor of English Literature, and Prof. Marshall, a former assistant to Prof. Tait, of Edinburgh. I had pleasant social intercourse with Profs. Macgillivray, Macnaughton, Glover, Ferguson, and others—more than I can here enumerate. The courses of study in the various arts classes are good, and the classes seemed large and well attended. There was a pleasing admixture of lady students in cap and gown.

The city clergymen at Kingston take a natural and active interest in the University. When I preached for the Rev. Mr. Mackie in St. Andrew's Church, and for the Rev. Mr. Macgillivray in Chalmers Church, there were excellent congregations, including many students and professors. Cooke's Church was vacant, but I saw the good work being done by the Rev. Mr. Boyd, of Zion, not without sympathetic aid from some of the students. With interest I witnessed the work of the Rev. Mr. Mackie's excellent Sunday schools and Bible classes, whose working I discussed, among many other matters, in his kind and hospitable manse. Taking all influences into account, I came to the conclusion that there is not a spot more enlightened, theologically, in Canada than Kingston. The strength of Queen's is her Arts Faculty, but excellent work is done in the Faculty of Medicine, which turns out many capable graduates every year. There also exist Faculties in Science and in Law, besides that in Theology, of which I have already spoken. The School of Mining and the Dairy School are

both affiliated with Queen's. The University library is good and growing; it has an efficient and enthusiastic librarian in Miss Saunders. The museum has many things of interest in geological, botanical and zoological science, and for it Prof. Fowler has done much. The specimens of Laurentian gneiss, of trilobites, of glacial phenomena, and of minerals, were of especial interest.

Queen's University seemed to me to be the life of Kingston. I found the influences of the University everywhere. If the civic authorities and the citizens of Kingston did not foster Queen's in every way they would certainly not be wise. And though I have spoken so very highly of Queen's, I am far from wishing to represent everything there as perfect, or as incapable of further development. In some of these developments the munificence of the citizens might bear a part—an easily found part. The roll of graduates is a long and honourable one. Another institution which makes its presence felt in Kingston is the Royal Military College, an imposing building with relative parade ground. The ex-cadets have often brought distinction to themselves and to the college.

The public buildings of Kingston are exceedingly fine, and mainly of light, marble-like limestone. There is a good electric car service, one of the modern features in a city of quaint, somewhat antique look. The Anglican Cathedral and the Roman Catholic Cathedral are both imposing

structures. This fine old limestone city was, so far back as 1673, known as Fort Frontenac, and has occupied a far more important place in the history of Canada—specially in the war of 1812—than I can here find room to explain. It is still important for its commerce, having excellent communications both by its railway and water systems.

After a month's delightful stay at Kingston, I left the college city for Toronto, "queen city" of the West, in company with my excellent friend Prof. J. W. Robertson, of Ottawa. Toronto is finely situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, and has a very good and sheltered harbour. The evening skies were of lovely pink tints as we got there, and there were banks of snow and ice along the edge of the vast lake. The streets of Toronto are wide, and laid out at right angles. The buildings are very handsome, and its developments have been great and rapid. The manufactures are important, and it is a great distributing centre for all kinds of manufactured goods; it is, in fact, chief commercial centre of the province. It has great shipping interests on the lakes in addition to its importance as a railway centre. The New Municipal and County buildings are simply magnificent, and cost 600,000/. We were very courteously received by the mayor and other official personages. We then visited the New Parliament buildings, where the Provincial Legislature meets. They form a substantial and very handsome edifice. Our steps we next

turned to the University of Toronto, whose fine structural form is enhanced by its beautiful surroundings. Its classrooms are in capital condition, and there is a splendid professorial staff, with a number of affiliated colleges. The president of the university is Dr. James Loudon. We had an interesting conversation with Prof. J. Mavor, the able Professor of Political Economy.

Later I went with the Rev. Dr. Milligan, whose guest I was, to call for Prof. McCurdy, the distinguished Professor of Oriental Literature, who, however, was not at home. There are, needless to say, fine libraries, laboratories, and museums in the university. This university is without test, and is maintained by the province. There is another university here, called Trinity, which is upheld by the Anglican Church. One could not help liking Toronto: there is a fine stir of city life, and the intellectual and literary interests are considerable. I had the pleasure to preach in the pulpit of my kind host, the Rev. Dr. Milligan, who has attracted a very large, intelligent, and deeply interested congregation. Under guidance of Dr. Milligan, I called for the Rev. Principal Caven, D.D., LL.D., as I was anxious to meet the head of Knox College. The Principal was very courteous, and showed me over the entire college buildings from the Missionary Museum in the top to the furnaces in the depths beneath. Principal Caven is a most estimable man, and greatly respected by the Church in Canada.

Knox College grants degrees in Divinity (both Bachelor and Doctor), and has a most creditable roll of graduates. The library is extensive and endowed. The staff of professors is very complete. The college has residence for seventy-six students in Divinity. It is very commodious, and well provided with classrooms. The courses for study and graduation are good. There seemed to me to be every reason why the Presbyterian colleges, like Knox and that at Montreal, of which I shall speak later, might become always greater centres of theological enlightenment, intellectual power, and spiritual influence.

But I must tear myself from Toronto that I may enter enchanted ground—Niagara Falls. On the way to Niagara Falls one passes through Hamilton, a populous city with varied manufacturing industries. It is, in fact, the Birmingham of Canada. The Rev. John Crawford B.A., very kindly escorted me over the whole of Niagara. I spent more days than I anticipated in exploring its natural beauties and geological wonders, which grow upon one with study. It is not merely that one may feast his eyes on mighty Niagara—peerless cataract, with sublimity for its primal quality—but the Niagara river also is a great sight. What a gorge! What lovely emerald, green water! What gurgling whirlpools! What swirling waters! What abysmal depths! The American Fall is both graceful and mighty; the Canadian, or Horse-Shoe Falls, are fuller and more massive by far.

Into those fascinating waters, with their whirlpools and rapids, you never grow weary of gazing. I do not dwell on the dynamical and stratigraphical features of the geology of Niagara, as I hope to write separately on the subject. Then there are the bridges—the Suspension Bridge, the Cantilever Bridge, and the Steel Arch Bridges, all which would delight the soul of an engineer, which, for weal or for woe, I do not possess! Queen Victoria Park is lovely, and, in fact, the whole place must in summer be enchanting. The district is in some ways the most highly favoured in Canada, since it is able to rear such products as grapes, peaches, melons, and tomatoes, in the open.

I returned to Toronto, and proceeded thence to Ottawa, the capital. Ottawa is a city beautiful for situation; it is lively; its development has been rapid, and seems likely to continue. The political metropolis of the Dominion, it has also a favouring position for commercial expansion, situated as it is at junction of the Rideau and Ottawa rivers, and marked out as the natural centre of the timber trade. Its Parliament Buildings are magnificent, the stately pile being one of great architectural beauty. I saw Parliament meet in Committee, and heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Charles Tupper, and others speak. The library is an extremely well furnished one. The view of the surrounding country from Parliament Buildings is most lovely. The city streets are tree-environed, Mr. Mather, one of the most

thoughtful and well-informed laymen I ever came across, kindly drove me over the city and through the timber districts. There we saw Eddy's famous paper and other mills, since so sadly destroyed by fire.

Prof. J. W. Robertson, whose guest I was, by his manifold kindnesses made my visit to Ottawa extremely pleasant. Prof. Robertson's name is deservedly known throughout Canada; he has developed a fine practical talent, which he has laid unsparingly at the service of the country; he is a man of quick and large intelligence; he has great sagacity and administrative ability; and, best of all, he is a man of noble character. In his beautiful home I had the pleasure to meet, amongst others, Sir Sandford Fleming, C.E., K.C.M.G., LL.D., the highly esteemed Chancellor of Queen's University, who has done for Queen's not a little. At the Geological Museum I met Dr. Dawson, son of the late Sir J. G. Dawson, also Prof. MacGoun, who was very kind, and Dr. Whiteaves, who was extremely obliging. Many and varied were the specimens—most excellent in form and condition—typical of that vast country. There is also a rich variety of Indian remains. Ottawa deserves a worthier building for this large collection, which will serve as a great national museum.

I preached for the Rev. Dr. Herridge, of St. Andrew's Church, and was delighted to see another of the large, intelligent, and influential congregations of the Church in Canada. At the instance of my kind host, the president and

committee of the well-ordered Rideau Club were good enough to extend to me for a brief space the privileges of the club. There I met, amongst others, Mr. Justice Sedgewick, of the Supreme Court of Canada, who seemed much interested in Scotch developments. I had the honour to receive an invitation to dinner at Government House from their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess of Minto, and as my kind host and hostess, Prof. and Mrs. Robertson, were already among the invited, I felt free to accept the invitation. It was a very pleasing function, and Lord and Lady Minto were very gracious, and appear to be highly esteemed. The pleasures of Ottawa I had at length to leave for Montreal, the commercial metropolis of Canada.

There I was the guest of the Rev. Dr. Hill, of St. Andrew's Church, in whose home I experienced great kindness. Dr. Hill is a man of fine personality, rare judgment, and large experience. His services to the public and philanthropic work of Montreal have been invaluable, and are appreciated throughout Canada. I preached to a large and most attentive congregation in his church. We went to call for the Rev. Dr. Barclay, of St. Paul's, but found him engaged with a fashionable marriage. Among the places of interest I visited in Montreal, under Dr. Hill's helpful guidance, were the Home for Scotch Emigrants; the Picture Galleries; the vast and varied Morgan stores, where Mr. Morgan was very attentive; the Church of Notre Dame, a beautiful and massive

building of large proportions; the Place d'Armes, with its fine monument to Maisonneuve; the early military parade ground, known as the Champ de Mars; the Royal Victoria Hospital, which is splendidly situated, and, I believe, well endowed; the Cathedral of St. James, a reproduction on smaller scale of St. Peter's at Rome; the City Hall; Dominion Square; Mount Royal, with its panoramic loveliness of view; the Grey Nunnery, one of the biggest conventual institutions anywhere; the famous Victoria Bridge over the river; the magnificent Canadian Pacific Railway Station; the splendid suite of buildings forming the McGill University; the Presbyterian College of Montreal; and other places of like interest.

Montreal is the largest city in Canada, its population exceeding 250,000 souls. It has a complete electric car service, and the opulence of many of its citizens can be gathered from a glance at the homes in Sherbrooke and other fashionable streets. The city extends for some miles along the river, having a massive river embankment. Its public buildings seemed to be in many cases built of a bluish grey limestone. Though Montreal is, like Glasgow, far from the sea, it has yet become a great seaport, with enormous commercial advantages. The shipping is very extensive, and the grain elevators and stores of its quay testify to its commercial prosperity. Its exports include timber, grain, iron, and dairy produce. Its chief industries are tobacco and boot factories,

sewing-machine and india-rubber factories, cotton mills and clothing factories, rail works and rolling mills, breweries, and large railway works.

Jacques Cartier, the famous French navigator, rowed up the St. Lawrence to Montreal in 1535. He named the place Mount Royal, so splendid was the prospect from the mountain, and in the shortened French form of Montreal it has borne the name ever since. One of the chief early sources of its commercial prosperity was the fur trade. The McGill University is presided over by Principal Peterson, for whom we called, but who had left to attend a meeting. I dined on two occasions with Prof. Clark Murray, the esteemed Professor of Moral Philosophy in McGill, and had interesting conversations with him on philosophy and more mundane affairs. The library of the university is very fine in its arrangements, and the museum is also an excellent structure. Dr. Harrington, the Professor of Chemistry, took us over the laboratories, which are simply admirable. On the science, medical, and engineering sides, McGill University is splendidly equipped. May it soon find some among its benefactors who will do something notable for learning on the Arts side! For that side there exists an able professorial staff, but the intrinsic worth of academic culture will be duly appreciated in a city like Montreal only with time, and by persistent preaching of the academic ideal.

I had a long talk with Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., of the Presbyterian College of Montreal, who was very courteous. This college is in excellent condition, and well supplied with classrooms. The library is large and well furnished. The professorial staff is very complete, and includes a French Professor of Theology. There are some sixty students in Divinity, and residence is provided in the college. The roll of graduates is very gratifying (both Bachelor and Doctor in Divinity being granted), and there are satisfactory courses for study and graduation. There seemed to me to be great possibilities before such a college. Around Montreal, as in some other parts of the Quebec province, the French-Canadian element is strongly represented. The appearance of these French villages and settlements is often quaint and picturesque. This element has found typical representation in 'The Habitant' and other poems by Dr. William Henry Drummond, who has entered into the life of these French-Canadian people in a way which delights all who have any acquaintance with their modes of life. Love, of course, and patriotism — the former with its inevitable marriage at twenty—are among their chief strains, whose occasional touches of real wit and humour even an outsider can appreciate. No one will grudge the French-Canadian his happiness in "dat nice leetle Canadienne."

At the close of my stay in Montreal I returned to Portland, where I took ship for



Liverpool, which I reached after a pleasant run of ten days. So ended my three months' tour in Canada—one of the most happy, most successful, and most enlarging experiences I have undergone. Canadian hospitality is a thing to be remembered. So, too, will be held in deepened remembrance the great part played by Canada in compassing the unity of our vast Empire, a unity in diversity to which may be most fitly applied the poet's words,—

*Spiritus intus alit ; totamque, infusa per artus,
Mens agitat molem, et magno se corpore miscet.*



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